

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 EUR-25 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01

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SUBJ: UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM REOPENS

REF: KHARTOUM 2428

1. SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM (UNIVKHAR) REOPENED NOV. 21 WITH SOMEWHAT REDUCED ATTENDANCE AND SOME INDICATIONS A MINORITY OF RECALCITRANT STUDENTS REMAIN UN-MOLLIFIED; GOS HAS CRACKED DOWN ON STUDENTS BELIEVED INVOLVED IN PAST DISTURBANCES AND MADE CLEAR REPETITION WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IN RESPONSE FACULTY/PARENTAL PRESSURE, HOWEVER, IT IS SHOWING WILLINGNESS AT LEAST REVIEW SOME ACTIONS REGARDED AS EXCESSIVE STRICT. DISSIDENT ELEMENTS HAVE NOT GIVEN UP EFFORTS CAUSE TROUBLE, BUT MOST STUDENTS PROBABLY GLAD TO GET BACK TO STUDIES. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING NEARLY THREE MONTHS CLOSE-DOWN IN WAKE LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER DISTURBANCES, UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM REOPENED WED. NOV. 21 AS PER REFTEL. GENERAL VIEW IS THAT REOPENING WENT WELL AND SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER (BUT NOT ALL) STUDENTS HAVE RETURNED. HOWEVER, STUDENTS REPORTEDLY PLANNING MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR "MARTYRED"

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SEPT. COLLEAGUES, WHILE SOLDIERS ENTERED CAMPUS NOV; 22 TO

REMOVE ANTI-NIMEIRI POSTERS, AND THERE IS SOME REPORTED AGITATION AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

3. CONDITIONS IMPOSED: PRIOR REOPENING GOS TOOK SERIES ACTIONS INTENDED PREVENT REOCCURENCE OF WHAT IT FEELS ARE UNIVERSITY'S EXCESSES; NIMEIRI NOV. 16 MET PERSONALLY WITH DEANS AND LECTURERS AND IN STRONG STATEMENT SAID GOS AND PEOPLE, WHO BEAR FINANCIAL BURDEN OF MAINTAINING INSTITUTIONS HIGHER LEARNING, WOULD NO LONGER TOLERATE CONSPIRACIES WHICH HAD ORIGINATED IN THESE INSTITUTIONS OR THEIR FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE PUBLIC WELFARE. GOS ALSO ANNOUNCED 99 STUDENTS HAD BEEN DISMISSED PERMANENTLY AND ABOUT 350 OTHERS SUSPENDED FOR ONE YEAR. UNIVKHAR ALSO ISSUED NEW REGULATIONS DISSOLVING STUDENT UNION, FORBIDDING POSTERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AND GENERALLY CURTAILING RIGHTS STUDENTS CRITICIZE GOS OR ITS POLICIES. ALL STUDENTS REQUIRED SIGN UNDERTAKING TO ABIDE BY THESE AND OTHER REGULATIONS.

4. SOME SOFTENING: THERE WAS EVIDENT FEELING AMONG FACULTY AND PARENTS THESE CONDITIONS SOMEWHAT SEVERE. IN PARTICULAR, DISMISSALS AND SUSPENSIONS CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE AND IN SOME CASES UNJUST. NIMEIRI SUBSEQUENTLY AUTHORIZED APPOINTMENT OF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER APPEALS. IMPACT OF SUSPENSION ACTION ALSO SOMEWHAT MODERATED IN THAT UPWARDS OF 150 OF THE NAMES ARE APPARENTLY FICTITIOUS. LIST DRAWN UP ON BASIS POLICE ARRESTS DURING AUGUST-SEPTEMBER DEMONSTRATION, BUT EVIDENTLY STUDENTS SUCCEEDED IN NUMBER OF CASES IN GIVING FALSE NAMES AND ARE NOW NO LONGER IDENTIFIABLE.

5. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATION REPORTED REFTEL, UNIV VICE-CHANCELLOR HASSAN HAS NOT RESIGNED BUT IS STAYING ON FOR AT LEAST IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

6. COMMENT: IT STILL TOO EARLY TO SAY UNIVERSITY TROUBLES ARE OVER. MUSLIM BROTHERS AND OTHERS DISSENT ELEMENT CLEARLY STILL AT WORK. GOS MAY HAVE WON SOME SUPPORT, HOWEVER, BY ITS WILLINGNESS AT LEAST RECONSIDER SOME OF THE KRSHER ASPECTS OF ITS ANNOUNCEMENT PUNISHMENT/RESTRICTIONS. IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALSO LIKELY MOST STUDENTS ARE JUST GLAD TO HAVE UNIVKHAR REOPENED AND TO AVOID LOSS OF FULL ACADEMIC YEAR AS HAD SEEMED DISTINCTLY POSSIBLE.
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